

### REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 13-16 are presently pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Akkar et al. (U.S. Patent 2001/0012360). However, Akkar does not qualify as prior art since the Applicant's application has a priority date of October 16, 1998 based on foreign application FR 98/12989. The Applicant is presently obtaining a verified english translation of the foreign application to submit to the Patent Office, in support of the priority claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

### Conclusion

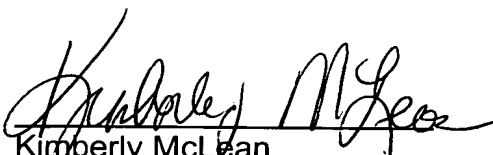
Based on at least the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-10 and 13-16 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in better form, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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